

Appl. No. : 10/019,753
Filed : March 5, 2002

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 19-21 have been cancelled. Claims 22 and 29-30 have been amended. Claims 7-20 and 22-30 are now pending in this application. Support for the amendments is found in the existing claims and the specification as discussed below. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants' representative gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 7-18 and 23-30. The Examiner also indicated that claim 22 could be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 22 has been so amended. In addition, claims 29 and 30 have been amended so that they do not depend from canceled claims 20 and 21. The remaining claims have been canceled. Consequently, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants will file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103(a)

Claims 1, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 11-246733.

Claims 1, 6, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,066,717 to Li, et al.

Claims 1, 4-6, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 10-231403.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP-11-246733, Li, et al., or JP 10-231403, above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,432,607 to Levy.

The above grounds of rejection are now moot in view of Applicants' claim cancellations. Consequently, these grounds of rejection may be properly withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the

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application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 11, 2004

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